

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 PPT-01 CA-01
PA-01 USIA-06 /067 W
-----019992 291400Z /53

R 290837Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0264
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0843

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD CH
SUBJ: TOURISM IN THE PRC

REF: PEKING 702

1. PI HSUEH-SHEN OF THE PEKING BRANCH OF CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE TOLD USLO MARCH 20 THAT CTS EXPECTED 15,000 AMERICANS TO VISIT CHINA THIS YEAR. (A CTS GUIDE TOLD A US TOURIST THAT 30,000 AMERICANS ARE EXPECTED IN 1979.) PI ADDED THAT THE SITE FOR THE NEW TOURIST HOTEL IS NOT YET CHOSEN. HE SAID TWO SITES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION ON CHANG AN ROAD AND ITS EXTENSION EAST, ONE ACROSS FROM THE FRIENDSHIP STORE AND ONE IN THE VICINITY OF THE PEKING HOTEL. HE DENIED THAT EITHER OF THE LARGE BUILDINGS GOING UP IN THE CHIEN MEN AREA WILL BE THE NEW HOTEL. PI SAID THAT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION AT THE END OF 1979, BUT THAT COMPLETION MAY BE DELAYED. THE NEW BUILDING WILL BE THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF THE PRESENT TERMINAL WHICH HANDLES BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TRAFFIC.

2. PI SAID THAT NEW HOTELS WILL BE BUILT IN SHANGHAI,
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HANGCHOW, CANTON AND SIAN AND THAT WORK WILL BE DONE TO BRING OTHER PROVINCIAL HOTELS CLOSER TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. (COMMENT: PI IS ONE OF THE MORE TALKATIVE CHINESE WE DEAL WITH BUT HIS STORIES DO NOT ALWAYS MESH FULLY WITH THE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES.)

3. AT MARCH 25 USLO RECEPTION FOR CTS DELEGATION
TO THE US, YUEH TAI-HENG, DIRECTOR OF CTS, SAID
THAT SINKIANG (I.E., URUMCHI) WILL BE OPENED TO
FOREIGNERS "IN THE FUTURE" AND THAT INNER MONGOLIA
"IS PREPARING" TO OPEN ITSELF TO TOURISTS. WHEN
ASKED, YUEH ADMITTED THAT AT PRESENT CTS IS SUFFERING
UNDER A SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS
AND THAT THIS IS A "BIG PROBLEM."
WOODCOCK

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